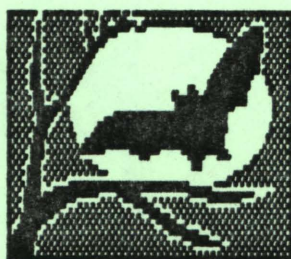
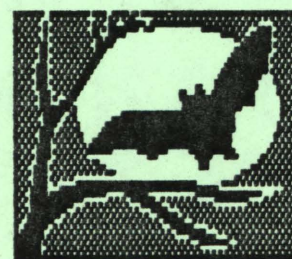


# **Ghost Trackers Newsletter**

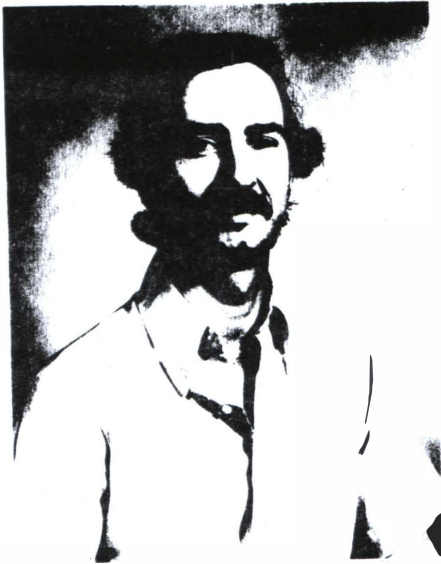
**Vol. 9 No. 1  
February 1990**



**GRS**



Editors page:



Happy New Year! We at the Ghost Research Society want to wish each and every member of the organization the very best for the coming year and hope your Christmas was also filled with joy!

I would like to thank the following people for their generous donations of materials. Those who sent in clippings include: Tom Perrott, Stefan Horvath and Madge Frazier. Thanks also got out to Tom Perrott for the interesting psychic picture that he sent me, F.S. Miller and Martin Riccardo for their Halloween cards, and Paul Devereux for his new book, "Earth Light Revelation". I donated material for the latter, specifically information on the

Ozark Spooklight and a picture taken on a visit to the area. I will be thoroughly reviewing this book in a future issue of the newsletter. Watch for it!

You might notice a difference in print for this newsletter in comparison to the others. We have recently upgraded to a much more powerful computer. I purchased a Tandy 1000 TL/2 with 640k of on-board memory, a fast 80286 microprocessor, 40 megabytes of storage power and coupled with a future purchase of a laser printer, the newsletter should look even sharper than before.

Since the last issue, we have added 15 new members and have received renewals from 13 members. We wish to thank all of you for your support! We hope to keep the newsletter going for many more years to come!

"True Tales Of The Unknown: The Uninvited" sold rather well on the bus tours last year. Again, for those who wish to receive their own personal autographed copy, simply send a check or money order for \$3.95 plus \$1.80 first-class postage made payable to Dale Kaczmarek, and be sure to specify if you want it autographed or not.

The newsletter of the quarter is "Elsewhen" which just came out with it's premiere issue in the Fall of 1989. It is put together by the Temporal Anomaly Research Association at PO Box 20173, Keizer, Oregon 97307. One year (4 issues) is \$6/\$8 Canada/\$10 Foreign. I thoroughly enjoyed reading Volume One and am anxiously awaiting the next issue.

## GHOST RESEARCH SOCIETY

The following individuals are now Contributing Members; Genna Dillworth, Jan Szczelaszczyk, Sterling Eddings Jr., Phyllis Butcher and Rosemary Ellen Guiley. In addition to the newsletter, they will receive a FREE newspaper clipping service of their particular area shipped to them on an irregular basis.

The following individuals are now Sustaining Members; Howard Heim, Jami Kennedy, Susan Houston and Kimberly Barz-Cohen. These members will be able to actually help assist with field investigations and ghost research which will usually be offered in the Chicagoland area at least twice a year.

Anyone can at anytime upgrade their membership to either Contributing or Sustaining status or you can wait until your renewal form is shipped to you and then can start your next years membership in this elite group.

We are still looking for State Coordinators, Area Research Directors and Field Investigators. If you wish to apply for one of these positions in your respective state or are simply interested in what these positions consist of, write for an no obligation application and information form in care of this organization.

The Midwest Conference on UFOs will be sponsored by New Age Promotions from May 24-27, 1990 in Chicago with booth space available. Contact Roberta at (312)433-6715.

A Leprechaun Psychic Fair sponsored by Mystique Productions will be held on Saturday, March 17, 1990 at the North Riverside VFW Hall. It will begin around 5:30 pm. For additional information, flyers and admission fee, contact Martin Riccardo at (708)749-7697.

The First Great UFO / ET / Humanoids Visitors / Alien and Abduction Congress will be held March 30, 31 and April 1, 1990 in Trenton, NJ. Sponsored by the Central New Jersey and Pennsylvania UFO Study Group and the UFO Book Club organized by Pat J. Marcattilio. For further information contact him at 138 Redfern St., Trenton, NJ. 08610 or (609)888-1358 between 11 am-2 pm Eastern Time.

By the June edition, we hope to be adding several new columns to the newsletter including some new writers which I'm sure will be an added feature which you won't want to miss! By sometime next year, we will have the capabilities of scanned images, better graphics and more pictures to add to the newsletter and the enhanced print and readable of a laser printer. The newsletter is constantly expanding to meet your growing needs!



## ATHELHAMPTON HALL

By

Tom Perrott



Not far from the County Town of Dorchester, the celebrated "Casterbridge" of Thomas Hardy's Wessex Novels, lies the delightful village of Puddletown.

Puddletown or Piddletown, as it was originally called, does not derive its name from inclement weather, but from the name of the De Pydeles, a lordly family that once held sway in this area. Just outside the village, screened by its own trees and far from the prying eyes of the 'Madding Crowd', is to be found the ancient pile of Athelhampton Hall, some parts of which are said to date back to the 15th Century and even back still further to the days of King Athelstan.

After five centuries of continuous occupation, this historical house, through its many occupants, has forged links with some of the Highest Families in the Realm, the present owners being the Lady Jennifer Cooke and her family.

The Hall in its original form was built in 1493 by the then Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Martyn. There are battlements, a picturesque porch and a stately Oriel Window. The West Wing which adjoins it is in a different architectural style and dates from 1525-50. Behind the house are imitation Tudor Wings, which were erected in 1895 and 1920. The Hall roof is original with curved and molded timbers. The paneling, screen and Gallery were 15th and 16th Century and were brought here from other parts of the country. The House is furnished in styles of a variety of periods, but one of the most striking rooms is the State Bedroom, with its 15th Century fireplace and its 17th Century paneling.

The Formal Gardens are most tastefully arranged with walks and ponds and with a wide variety of shrubs and plants. In a wilder part of the garden may be found a large 16th Century Dovehouse.

As is common with many old houses of this great age, where due to climatic changes, old furniture is sometimes heard to sigh and ancient timbers creak. Athelhampton has accumulated over the years many stories of Hauntings, although none of the present occupants or their Staff will ever admit to having had such a

thing as a Psychic experience.

Nevertheless whether the many stories of Hauntings are purely legendary, as so many stories of this nature associated with buildings such as this are, or whether some of them actually happened either in a subjective or an objective sense to their many percipients, they do exude an aura of mystery and fascination.

The first interesting Ghost Story concerns the Martyn Ape. At one time a family named Martyn occupied Athelhampton, and a part of their family's Coat-of-Arms depicted an ape. A story is told of a certain Martyn heiress, who as a result of frustration decided to commit suicide. This she is said to have done in a small chamber which opened off from a secret staircase connecting the Great Chamber to the Long Gallery. While she was in the process of killing herself, she inadvertently locked her pet ape in the Chamber. On several occasions in the past, the spectre of this ape is said to have been seen on the staircase, but the last recorded sighting was many years ago.

The figure of a Lady in Grey, dressed in Period Costume, has been seen by former members of the Staff, usually in the Tudor Room. She was also believed to have been seen by a former Housekeeper, a Mrs. Chinchin in one of the bedrooms.

Both Mrs. Chinchin and the late Owner, Sir Robert Cooke, former Member of Parliament for Bristol West, have heard what were believed to have been the tapping sounds of a phantom cooper, engaged in his craft of making barrels. He is usually heard in the Wine Cellar, which adjoins the Great Hall, in itself an outstanding example of 15th Century architecture.

Another story concerning the alleged sighting of a spectral Monk has now largely been discounted, in that it is said to have originated from the visit of a Priest, who was conducting a party of Visitors on a tour of the Hall, and wishing to relieve himself was seen standing outside one of the Bathrooms.

Sir Robert also told the story to the noted Investigator Andrew Green, of one occasion when he was working in his study, and distinctly heard the noise of a cat padding outside the door. Being unsuccessful in locating it, he asked the gardener if he had seen it, only to be told that it had died the previous week and was now buried in the garden.

Before the first World War, it had been reported that phantom duelists had been seen in the Great Chamber, and on other occasions the sounds of their clashing swords had been heard. Headless men had also been seen sitting at the Dining Table.

Many of these stories may be mere whispers from the historical past of an ancient building, that has been occupied for centuries. Other noises might be attributed to the expanding and contracting of timbers, the scrabbling of mice in the wainscot, underground streams or birds nesting in the chimneys or the thatch.

Other phenomena may not be so easily explained. Sir Robert Cooke once told the writer J. Wentworth Day of the occasion when

he was in his bed, the bedroom door suddenly opened itself unaided, and the room was suffused by a blinding light.

On discussing the Ghosts of Athelhampton with Sir Robert, he was once heard to say, "I have no wish to disturb the Spirits and they don't worry me. Whatever they are I am very happy to live with them."

#### Sources Consulted

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Ghosts and Legends by R. Christian (Published by Davud & Charles 1972).

Dorset. The Complete Guide by Jo Draper (Published by the Dovecote Press 1986).

Submitted by: Tom Perrott, 93 The Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10 2QG, United Kingdom.



#### DAWN DALY

*Astrologer • Numerologist*

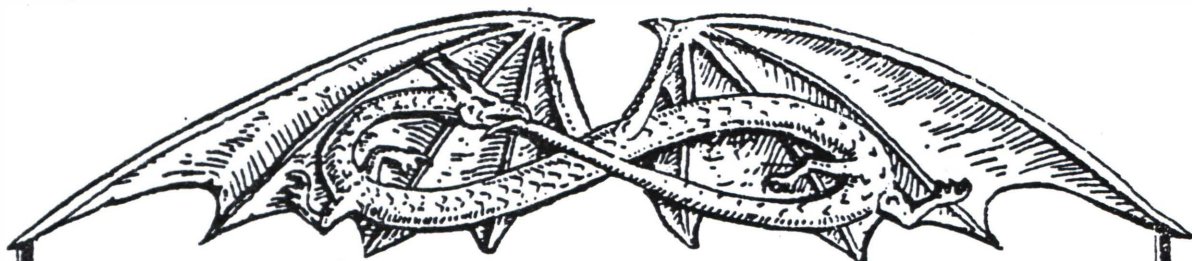
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## THE FIRST SETTLER

By

Maurice Schwalm



The occasional movements of heavy objects which occur in Kansas City, Missouri at Lot #189, Morningside Park, seem to relate to its unrecorded history. On that lot stands a three-story frame house with shake-cedar siding. It was of luxury quality construction and has been improved and maintained. It is in a stable, upper middle-class neighborhood which traditionally accepts all comers, unlike adjacent developments of this urban area. The lots run fifty foot to seventy-five foot front frontage. The entire area is flat and has trees planted in rows at the curb which were planted thirty years ago.

The area gives no hint of its role in the Santa Fe Trail or in the Battle of Westport in the Civil War. In both a walnut grove was used as a landmark. It was

charted as Hinkle's Grove. Hinkle's Grove was part of a 52-acre tract sold by Olive Hinkle to Cowherd Real Estate in 1911. The original tract had been patented by her grandfather in 1843. The grove was the reference point for a calvary encirclement of retreating Southern forces in the 1864 Battle of Westport. Many died there. Covered wagons that had outfitted in Independence, Missouri used the grove as a reference point on the Santa Fe Trail, which funneled migration from 1822 until 1880 when the Santa Fe Railroad was completed to New Mexico. Many died along the way.

A house was built on what had been Hinkle's Grove in 1916. It has changed hands thirteen times in sixty-five years in that stable neighborhood. There is no tradition of a haunting. The present owner became aware that his house had a history when he smelled smoke with no determinable source one morning. He then read in the "40 Years Ago" column of the Kansas City Star that his house had burned exactly forty years ago. He recalled that when he moved in, a hutch he had placed in a corner was repeatedly found realigned in the morning. He also recalled keys missing for a year found in a cup on a top shelf.

Soon thereafter, he had a dinner party. The possibility of a ghost became the topic of humor. An attorney, Keith Larson,




challenged the ghost to "do something". The smoke alarm promptly went off twice in a matter of two minutes without being reset. When he got home, he found his Timex electric watch was a half-hour slow. He reset it. The day after, it stopped functioning entirely. Two days later, a television interview (for PM Magazine) on the premises required multiple retakes due to "electrical disturbances".

The Occult Studies Group also obtained psychic impressions. But these seem to relate to an unrecorded "first settler" of Hinkle's Grove: A teenage girl who died thereabouts of cholera while on the Santa Fe Trail. Perhaps a record is now being formed.

Submitted by: Maurice Schwalm, PO Box 3522, Kansas City, Mo. 66103-0522.

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## THE HAUNTED BOOKSHOP

By

W. Ritchie Benedict

### RUSSIANS ASTONISHED BY GHOST IN DORMITORY - October 11, 1988

Moscow (Canadian Press) - A Moscow dormitory for women workers has a ghost that steals boots and plays "Knock-Knock" with some of the residents according to the Soviet newspaper Trud. The labor daily claims the ghost was discovered in September 1988 by three young housepainters who live in the dormitory. It said they had learned to communicate with the specter by a code system of knocks - one for yes and two for no. When two Trud reporters arrived on the scene, the ghost had stolen a boot, and when the women asked several questions as to its whereabouts they got one knock for yes, indicating that the boot was behind a shelf.

-----

### REINCARNATION SUICIDES BAFFLE CHINESE AUTHORITIES - October 16, 1988

Beijing, China (Reuters News Agency) - An impoverished area of South China has been hit by a spate of mass suicides by dissatisfied peasant girls yearning to be reincarnated as sophisticated city women. The China Women's Daily said fifty-one young women, most of them teenagers, had died recently in a series of group suicides in villages in mountainous Jiangxi province.

It went on to relate how many of the victims dressed in their best clothes before throwing themselves into the lakes together in the belief that they would come back to a better life. Many had despaired of their poverty and lack of education after visiting Chinese cities, and resented their parents for forbidding them to go to high school or leave their village, the report said. "We have nothing good to eat, wear or do," the Women's Daily quoted one girl as saying.

+++++

### WAYNE NEWTON BUYS MANSION FULL OF GHOSTS - July 12, 1988

Las Vegas, Nevada (Canadian Press) - Las Vegas singer Wayne Newton is the owner of a stately mansion in Elizabeth City, N.C. that comes with its own set of occupants - ghosts. For years, ghosts have rocked on the wide veranda of the plantation house on summer evenings or wandered through the downstairs hall after midnight, the former owner says.

Frank Hollowell, Jr., third-generation owner of the 13-room house, sold it and eleven acres of land to Newton for \$250,000.

"I can't guarantee a ghost," Hollowell says, but he adds that he has heard one walking through the house and a guest once woke and saw what she believed to be a ghost sitting at the foot of her bed smoking a cigar.

\*\*\*\*\*

### LOGGERS FACE "HEAVY CURSE" - July 25, 1988

Vancouver (Canadian Press) - Doug Peterson has a better idea

to save the Stein Valley from loggers or anybody else who would mar its pristine beauty - put a curse on it. Peterson says he'll travel to the valley 160 kilometers northeast of Vancouver and put a curse on the whole place. He says he will use medicine stones, which will cause all sorts of misfortune to befall anyone who enters the valley. "It's going to be bad luck, heavy danger, that kind of stuff."

Unfortunately, Peterson has no way of exempting people friendly to the valley, such as Indians who claim aboriginal title to it and environmentalists lobbying to ban logging. The curse goes into effect at the height of the full moon and lasts forever.

#####  
VIRGIN MARY SIGHTINGS DRAWS CROWD - March 13, 1989

Tickfaw, Louisiana (Associated Press) - Devout Roman Catholics and the curious gathered in a vegetable field near the tiny southeastern Louisiana town, hoping to see the Virgin Mary. The estimated 3,000 people were inspired by the visions of a pipefitter from suburban New Orleans. Some people said they did indeed see what they came to see. "I believe that I saw her, Jesus, Joseph and the angels and the saints", said Shelly Ann Theresa, twenty-eight, from the New Orleans suburb of Covington. "I'm kind of nervous and overwhelmed." Some took pictures of the sun with instant cameras and pointed to the splotchy, multicolored images as evidence that holy apparitions had appeared. "See, here's the Blessed Mother," said Diane Deroche of Luling as she pointed to a photograph she had taken. Theresa Thibodeaux of Hammond also held photos, taken earlier in the day, of what she said were the gates of heaven. "I'm expecting a miracle," she said beginning to sob. "I'm blind in this eye and I have glaucoma in the other. My nephew is crippled and my uncle has cancer. It may not be for me, but I believe in my heart. You have to believe for a miracle".

Alfred Raimondo, fifty-two, is the man whose tales of miraculous visions led to the huge turnout at Tickfaw. The pipefitter from Chalmette, said the Virgin Mary had appeared to him recently and told him to go to Tickfaw to honor St. Joseph. Raimondo stayed sequestered in a mobile home on the edge of the vegetable field, but later emerged and began wandering among the faithful, many of whom reached out to touch him as he ambled through the crowd.

"I'm very happy," he said. "We're letting Joseph show us the way. There are a lot of people here."

Not everyone was sure a miracle would happen. "We wanted to see what was going to happen," said George Rand. "We're going to mass here and anything else is extra".

Outside Raimondo's trailer, families with lawn chairs and coolers ate picnic lunches in the sunshine, while someone led Hail Mary prayers over a loudspeaker. Women knelt in muddy ruts among the cabbages and onions saying prayers. Some had floral crosses at their sides. A spokesman for the Archdiocese of New Orleans did not immediately return a telephone call from

reporters seeking comment on the vision reports.

Submitted by: W. Ritchie Benedict, 12-401 Grier Ave. NE, Calgary,  
Alberta, Canada T2K 5S7

#### BOOK REVIEWS

A Gathering Of Ghosts by Robin Skelton & Jean Kozocari (Western Producer Prairie Books, Box 2500, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, S7K 2C4, 1989, 169 pages, \$22.95 [Canada]).

When one reads anything about the paranormal, it is always fascinating to come across a similar account that may have happened thousands of miles away, and in a different time period. It lends the weight of truth to the notion that these odd events DO have a basis in reality. Recently, I was reading a British book published about ten years ago that was a biography of a clergyman who was a professional exorcist. In a highly unusual case, he was called upon to remove a malevolent influence surrounding a Chinese statue that had been the cause of considerable ill fortune, and a number of deaths. After the energy field was neutralized, the statue simply became another ordinary household object. On page 5 in the introduction to this book, the authors discuss just this type of case, stating that: "A statue or figure that has been used in religious ritual will often contain an energy field that continues to send out its powers long after it has been relegated to the shelves of an antique shop or the mantelpiece of a collector." They go on to say they know of an Oriental figure that made life really miserable for the family that owned it.

Well, my first impression was these people really know what they are talking about! As well they should, as both have had an active involvement with the supernatural. Robin Skelton (an appropriate name considering the subject matter) is the author of some seventy books and in addition to founding the Creative Writing Department at the University of Victoria, he is also a practicing witch and ghost-buster.

Jean Kozocari has a family who have a background in witchcraft dating to the 15th Century and she has delved into hauntings since her childhood. She is a frequent guest on Canadian radio and television shows, appearing as an expert on the occult.

The first case related is particularly interesting. I have heard of rumors about it from other sources, but this is the only detailed accounting to appear thus far. There is a thoroughly unpleasant house in British Columbia that may be haunted by the ghost of Sir Matthew Begbie the first Chief Justice of the province. The owners were being driven frantic by such unexplained occurrences as a drumming sound beneath the floorboards, a "green man" staring in the windows and the sounds of a huge animal jumping against the door. A Polaroid photograph taken of the house seemed to show an image of Sir Matthew looking much younger than when he died. It is suspected that a vortex caused by crossing energy (ley) lines may be responsible for much



of the trouble surrounding the house on the hill.

Ghosts appear to haunt an astonishing variety of locales- not just old houses and castles. The American ghost hunter Hans Holzer once wrote a book that included an account of monks parading across a golf course in California in 1963. There is a Canadian counterpart of this in Victoria. The Oak Bay Golf Course there was the scene of a murder in the 1930's. A young woman was strangled and buried in a sand trap. Ever since 1936, between 4:30 and 5:00 pm, she has been observed with her arms outstretched and wearing a long white dress. She rushes towards the viewer, then shrinks into a small pool of light and disappears. The "April Ghost" has put in an appearance as recently as 1980.

The unique aspect of this book is its focus upon hauntings in Victoria, British Columbia. A Canadian living in the neighboring province of Alberta, I was amazed at the amount of activity that is present in that small city that is the provincial capital. There is a great deal that has never been reported until now, and the authors are doing researchers a considerable favor by detailing it. It also goes without saying, that this makes for exciting reading.

You will find a number of valuable tips on psychic matters, as for example, how to tell the difference between a haunting and attempted possession, the proper rituals to use in an exorcism and defense against psychic attack. One house on St. David Street lends credence to the notion there may be some truth behind the vampire legend. It drained the vitality of the lady who lived there to such an extent that she had to be hospitalized for low blood pressure several times. A second house extremely debilitated the man living there. It was later discovered that this land had been used by native Indian women as a retreat following childbirth. Men were not permitted there. The place was a personal power spot with an ancient curse attached. This illustrates the point that not all haunted places are bad for everyone - if it was inhabited by a woman, it would be quite beneficial for her.

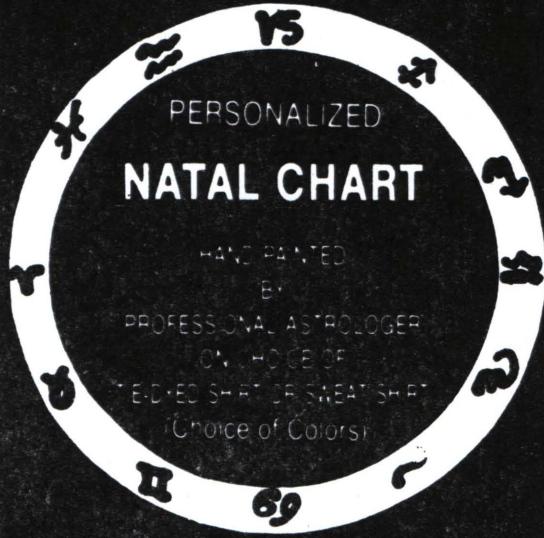
There are restaurant ghosts, theater ghosts, child ghosts and the restless specters of a now-forgotten 1896 streetcar disaster. The stories are fully documented as to names, dates and places. None of this nonsense of "Mr. X reporting a vague mist many years ago" that mars too many books on the strange and unusual.

A suggestion that is particularly useful is that a haunted house should not necessarily be thought of as negative. The authors state that if a manifestation is greeted with positive energy, then it can amplify and accelerate all of the creative activity that occurs there. Haunted houses then, are like a storage battery with positive and negative poles. Either one can be utilized for the detriment or benefit of the inhabitants.

Any reader will wonder why, after completing this book, science does not accept the paranormal. The amount of evidence is staggering. This is an excellent book that will be welcomed

by anyone wishing to know more about Canadian ghosts and hauntings. A tour-de-force of the mysterious.

Reviewed by: W. Ritchie Benedict, #12-401 Grier Ave., N.E.,  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2K 5S7



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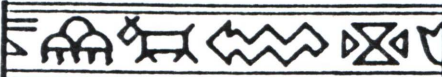
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The World's Greatest Ghosts by Nigel Blundell & Roger Boar  
(Berkley Publishing Group, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY.  
10016, 1984, 230 pages, \$3.50)

This book deals with precisely what its title suggests- famous ghostly tales and legends - all of them reportedly true and convincingly told. Here are eerie anecdotes gathered mainly from British sources from the ghost ships Flying Dutchman and Mary Celeste, to the infamous Borley Rectory and the Tower of London, from Tennessee's Bell Witch to the ghosts of the Bermuda Triangle, there is a wealth of fascinating supernatural material.

You will be spellbound as you read about the lady who travels headless in a phantom coach, about the victims of Jack the Ripper who still haunt the places where they were brutally murdered, and about why skeptics are advised to keep their opinions to themselves when they visit the Kings Arms Inn in Somerset, England. These stories are genuinely spinechilling!

Also included are first-hand encounters with the supernatural experienced by such celebrities as Vincent Price, Roger Moore, Telly Savalas, Glenn Ford, Elke Sommer, Kim Novak and Charlene Tilton. Definitely a must for collectors of ghost lore, it also contains drawings and photographs. Only one regret that the book isn't longer. Many of the stories are a bit brief and could be more thoroughly detailed and a few of the stories are contemporary.

Rated a 7 on a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Jon Mullin.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Haunted Houses of Michigan by K.M. Hoisington (Discovery, PO Box 635, Central Lake, Mi., 49622, \$6.00)

A fog forms in a living room. An unseen voice speaks. A terrifying face glows in the mirror. These and other tales come to you from Harbor Springs, Ellsworth, Central Lake, Cadillac, Tustin, McBain, Lapeer and Kalamazoo..... seventeen stories in all. While the book is not fancy and a little on the crude side; it is well written and I'd give it an 8.

Reviewed by: Dr. M.D. Michaelson, 4035 Blaisdell Ave., S., Minneapolis, Mn. 55409.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Haunted Odyssey - Ghostly Tales of the Mississippi Valley by Jim Longo Fourth Printing (no price listed).

The Clayton Citizen Journal has pronounced him the "unofficially recognized premiere ghost story teller of the area" and this new collection of stories confirms its judgement.

A life-long interest in ghost stories culminated in Longo's four-year search up and down the Mississippi Valley collecting the best ghost stories local residents "sincerely believed were true". He and his photographer Pat Right visited my house ("Minnesota's Most Haunted House") on May 22nd and he gave me an autographed copy which I have to give an 8 also. He is currently



putting together a new collection of stories which myself and my house will be featured in (Fifth Printing). This will be the third book my haunted house will be in. It may also be featured on Unsolved Mysteries and A Current Affair. No prices were listed for the fourth and fifth printings but they were published by: St. Anne's Press, 7529 Marillac, St. Louis, Mo. 63133.

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Photographing the Spirit World: Images From Beyond the Spectrum by Cyril Permutt (Aquarian Press, Thorsons Publishing Group, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 2RQ, United Kingdom, softcover, 1988, 185 pages, \$14.00)

Another good book on the subject of spirit photography it traces back the early episodes of elementary photography with such pioneers as Crookes, Hope, Mumler and Baguet. Plenty of illustrations and, of course, spirit photographs to ponder over. However, many of them are out-right frauds and double-exposures while there are many others that are considered classics such as the Silver Belle materializations, the Armistice Day photograph of 1924, Ted Serios' thoughtography and other brand new photographs which are quite remarkable.

Well worth the price for a good reference book on spirit photography. Rated 8 on a scale of 1-10.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek



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December	3	
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## OPINION POLLS

Tim Rae of Alexandria, Virginia writes, "I would like to see some cartoons and some more art work. You could include classics as well as new ones."

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Gloria Reiser of Quincy, Illinois comments, "Of course, I'd like to see you publish a monthly, however I understand the work and expense involved!"

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Mark Perk of Chicago, Illinois says, "It's easy to sit and criticize someone else's work and quite another thing to actually do the work itself. I know you work very hard at what you do and I can really appreciate it. Myself, I'm not very picky about cover design and typeset, etc., more interested in content. So my criticisms or constructive criticisms are about that."

First of all, since your operation is based in Chicago, it would be very nice to have a lot of articles and investigative reports on Chicagoland hauntings. I understand you had a problem with (name deleted) using your material, but he's only one person. Once you trademark or copyright anything he can't use it in a written context, nor is he ever going to be able to get all the information about an investigation from one article. You should perhaps consider that other readers would like to read about Chicago happenings and not let one person ruin it for all. This is only a suggestion.

I subscribe to a magazine called Guitar Player and what makes it such a great periodical is its combination of information, in several essential forms. There are "New Happenings" type articles, articles on different players, ads and "How-To" articles, hands on instructional articles. This is the one additive I would wish to see in your magazines. A ghost-hunting article specifically dealing with some aspect of ghost research (photography, interviewing, background search, etc.). It would be relative to the title of the magazine. It's nice that you print ads for psychic development classes, astrology and Fortean styled publications but it would be nice to see information specifically designed for the researcher.

Otherwise the magazine is interesting and informal which is nice. I think you have a high standard for articles on hauntings and it shows in their quality. My only suggestion is that there is more of an equilibrium between serious research and techniques and general information. Having my own group I know how much time is spent with papers, organization phone calls, etc. I respect your work very much and truly appreciate all the help you give me. You're a generous and sincere person and I thank you for your help."

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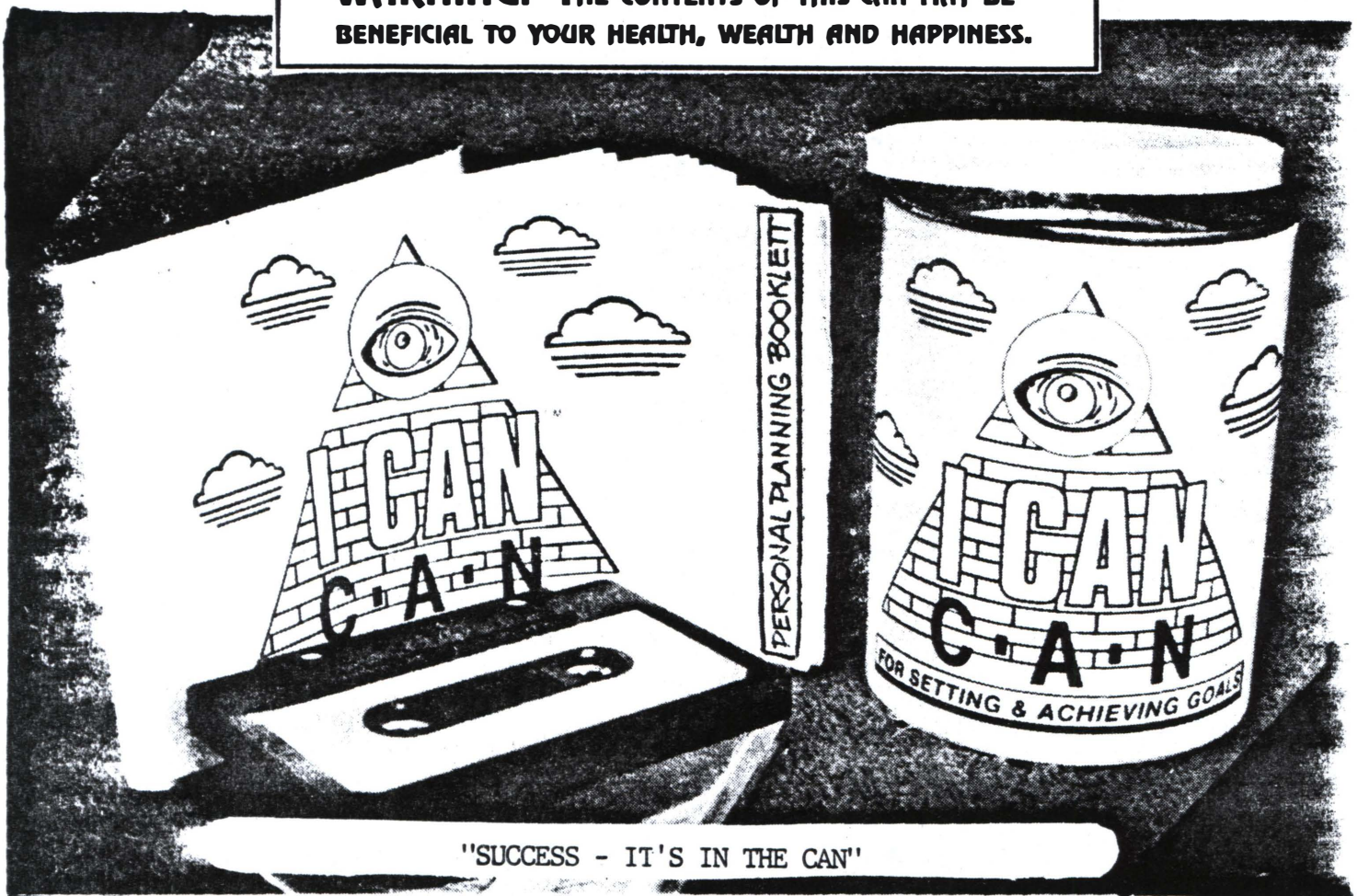
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## Homecoming

I saw him for the first time  
In the shadows by the tree,  
Near the wall where the ivy climbs  
To the chapel tower belfry.  
He was in a tattered uniform  
It looked like World War One.  
I hurried past towards my dorm,  
Looked back and he was gone.

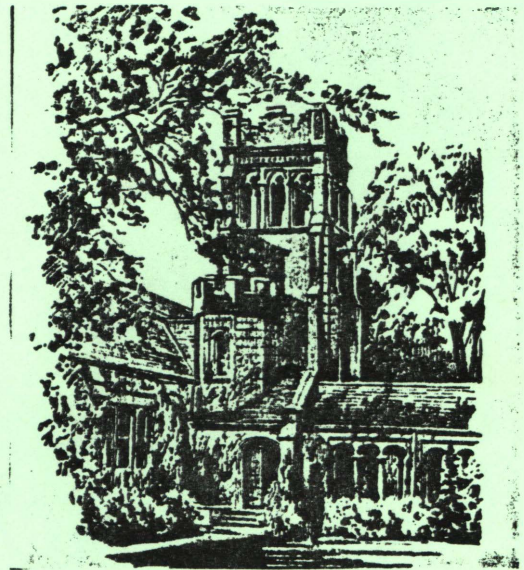
I chanced upon him once again  
Late afternoon in Fall.  
I'd sheltered from a heavy rain  
In the chapel entrance hall.  
I heard a sigh and turned around,  
Saw him sat against the wall  
He rose and smiled, I held my ground  
He was lean and six feet tall.

He said, "Hello" and shook my hand,  
His grip was strong and cold.  
His hair was fair, his skin was tanned,  
His eyes were tired and old.  
I knew this was no mortal man,  
I'd sensed it from the start.  
What would he do if I turned and ran?  
Did he hear my beating heart?

He said, "The chapel's looking old  
I recall when it was new.  
The wooden pews they shone like gold  
The stained glass windows too.  
I see they've changed this sacred place  
It does not look the same.  
The pews are gone where we said grace  
The hymn books bearing our name.

I like to come back now and then,  
And gaze on these old walls  
I hope to see you here again  
When I'm wandering through the halls."  
I realized I had not spoken  
Didn't even ask his name.  
Too late, the spell was broken  
He was gone from whence he came.

So if you're walking to your dorm  
On a cool and moonlit night.  
And you see a shadowy form  
In the cloisters near the light.  
You'll wonder if this tale is true  
And should you stop and see.  
Just be forewarned, it's up to you  
It could happen, as with me.



By William Humphries